General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 February 2015

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 27 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2014

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/69/481)*]

69/150. Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/117 of 9 December 1998, 56/128 of 19 December 2001, 67/146 of 20 December 2012 and 68/146 of 18 December 2013, Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 51/2 of 9 March 2007,[1] 52/2 of 7 March 2008[2] and 54/7 of 12 March 2010[3] and Human Rights Council resolution 27/22 of 26 September 2014,[4] and all relevant agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming that the Convention on the Rights of the Child[5] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[6] together with the Optional Protocols thereto,[7] constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls,

Reaffirming also the Beijing Declaration[8] and Platform for Action,[9] the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[10] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 7* (E/2007/27), chap. I, sect. D.

[2] Ibid., *2008, Supplement No. 7* (E/2008/27), chap. I, sect. D.

[3] Ibid., *2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. D.

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/69/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. IV, sect. A.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[6] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[7] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex; and United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

[8] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Ibid., annex II.

[10] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

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and Development[11] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[12] and their 5-, 10-, 15- and 20-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[13] and the commitments relevant to women and girls made at the 2005 World Summit[14] and reiterated in Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals",

Recalling the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which contains, inter alia, undertakings and commitments on ending female genital mutilation and marks a significant milestone towards the abandonment and ending of female genital mutilation,

Recalling also the decision of the African Union, adopted in Malabo on 1 July 2011, to support the adoption by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session of a resolution banning female genital mutilation,

Recalling further the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session that the Economic and Social Council recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a decision to consider the issue of ending female genital mutilation at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Advancement of women",[15]

Recognizing that female genital mutilations constitute irreparable, irreversible harm that impairs the human rights of women and girls, affecting about 100 million to 140 million women and girls worldwide, and that each year an estimated further 3 million girls are at risk of being subjected to the practice throughout the world,

Reaffirming that female genital mutilations are a harmful practice, constituting a serious threat to the health of women and girls, including their psychological, sexual and reproductive health, increasing their vulnerability to HIV and possibly having adverse obstetric and prenatal outcomes, as well as fatal consequences for the mother and the newborn, and that the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society, including girls and boys, women and men,

Concerned about evidence of an increase in the incidence of female genital mutilations being carried out by medical personnel in all regions in which they are practised,

Recognizing that negative discriminatory stereotypical attitudes and behaviours have direct implications for the status and treatment of women and girls and that such negative stereotypes impede the implementation of legislative and normative frameworks that guarantee gender equality and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex,

Recognizing also that the campaign of the Secretary-General entitled "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the database on violence against women have contributed to addressing the elimination of female genital mutilations,

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[11] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[12] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[13] Resolution 55/2.

[14] See resolution 60/1.

[15] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2012/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations system to end female genital mutilations, in particular the commitment of 10 United Nations entities,[16] announced in their joint inter-agency statement of 27 February 2008 on eliminating female genital mutilation, as well as the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, to accelerate the elimination of the practice,

Commending the continued efforts and actions undertaken by States, individually and collectively, regional organizations and United Nations agencies for the elimination of female genital mutilation as well as the implementation of its resolution 67/146,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[17]

Noting with disappointment, in this regard, the continuing need for the information requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/146, which was not provided, concerning the root causes of and factors contributing to the practice of female genital mutilations, its prevalence worldwide and its impact on women and girls, including evidence and data, analysis of progress made to date and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating this practice on the basis of information provided by Member States, relevant actors of the United Nations system working on the issue and other relevant stakeholders,

Deeply concerned that, despite the increase in national, regional and international efforts and the focus on the abandonment of female genital mutilations, the practice continues to persist in all regions of the world, and is often on the rise for migrant women and girls,

Deeply concerned also that a tremendous gap in resources continues to exist and that the shortfall in funding has severely limited the scope and pace of programmes and activities for the elimination of female genital mutilations,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, on the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,[18] in which it decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and noting that the report integrates the importance of the elimination of all harmful practices to women and girls, including female genital mutilation,

1. *Stresses* that the empowerment of women and girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, and calls upon States parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child[5] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[6] as well as their commitments to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, [19] the Programme of Action of the International

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[16] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations Development Programme, Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Fund for Women and World Health Organization.

[17] A/69/211.

[18] A/68/970 and Corr.1.

[19] Resolution 48/104.

Conference on Population and Development,[11] the Beijing Platform for Action[9] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[10] and of the special session of the Assembly on children;[20]

2. *Calls upon* States to place a stronger focus on the development of comprehensive prevention strategies, including the enhancement of educational campaigns, awareness-raising and formal, non-formal and informal education and training in order to promote the direct engagement of girls and boys, women and men and to ensure that all key actors, Government officials, including law enforcement and judicial personnel, immigration officials, health-care providers, civil society, community and religious leaders, teachers, employers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, families and communities, work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices, in particular all forms of female genital mutilations, that negatively affect women and girls;

3. *Also calls upon* States to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes, to mobilize girls and boys to take an active part in developing preventive and elimination programmes to address harmful practices, especially female genital mutilations, and to engage local community and religious leaders, educational institutions, the media and families and provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end discriminatory social norms and practices;

4. *Urges* States to condemn all harmful practices that affect women and girls, in particular female genital mutilations, whether committed within or outside a medical institution, and to take all necessary measures, especially through educational campaigns, including enacting and enforcing legislation, to prohibit female genital mutilations and to protect women and girls from this form of violence, and to hold perpetrators to account;

5. *Also urges* States to complement punitive measures with awareness-raising and educational activities designed to promote a process of consensus towards the elimination of female genital mutilations, and further urges States to protect and support women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilations and those at risk, including by developing social and psychological support services and care, and to explore other remedies, as appropriate, and take measures to improve their health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to assist women and girls who are subjected to the practice;

6. *Further urges* States, as appropriate, to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes by reviewing and revising school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes and elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance for violence against girls, including female genital mutilations, and to further integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls into education and training curricula at all levels;

7. *Urges* States to ensure that the protection and provision of support to women and girls subject to, or at risk of, female genital mutilation are an integral part of policies and programmes that address the practice and to provide women and girls with coordinated, specialized, accessible and quality multisectoral prevention and response, including education, as well as legal, psychological, health-care and social services, provided by qualified personnel, consistent with the guidelines of medical ethics;

[20] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

8. *Calls upon* States to ensure that national action plans and strategies on the elimination of female genital mutilations are comprehensive and multidisciplinary in scope and that they include projected timelines for goals and incorporate clear targets and indicators for the effective monitoring, impact assessment and coordination of programmes among all relevant stakeholders and promote their participation, including the participation of affected groups, practising communities and non-governmental organizations, in the development, implementation and evaluation of such plans and strategies;

9. *Urges* States to take, within the general framework of integration policies and in consultation with affected communities, effective and specific targeted measures for refugee women and women migrants and their communities in order to protect girls from female genital mutilations, including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence;

10. *Calls upon* States to develop information and awareness-raising campaigns and programmes to systematically reach the general public, relevant professionals, families and communities, including through the media, featuring television and radio discussions, on the elimination of female genital mutilations;

11. *Urges* States to pursue a comprehensive, culturally sensitive, systematic approach that incorporates a social perspective and is based on human rights and gender-equality principles in providing education and training to families, local community leaders and members of all professions relevant to the protection and empowerment of women and girls in order to increase awareness of and commitment to the elimination of female genital mutilations;

12. *Also urges* States to ensure the national implementation of international and regional commitments and obligations undertaken as States parties to various international instruments protecting the full enjoyment of all human rights and the fundamental freedoms of women and girls;

13. *Calls upon* States to develop policies and regulations to ensure the effective implementation of national legislative frameworks on eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilations, and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at the national and local levels to monitor adherence to and implementation of these legislative frameworks;

14. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of data on all forms of discrimination and violence against girls, especially forms that are underdocumented, such as female genital mutilations, to develop additional indicators so as to effectively measure progress in eliminating the practice and to reinforce the sharing of good practices relating to the prevention and the abandonment of the practice at the subregional and regional levels;

15. *Urges* States to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of policies and programmes and legislative frameworks aimed at eliminating female genital mutilations;

16. *Calls upon* States to develop, support and implement comprehensive and integrated strategies for the prevention of female genital mutilations, including the training of social workers, medical personnel, community and religious leaders and relevant professionals, and to ensure that they provide competent, supportive services and care to women and girls who are at risk of or who have undergone female genital mutilations and encourage them to report to the appropriate authorities cases in which they believe women or girls are at risk;

17. *Also calls upon* States to support, as part of a comprehensive approach to eliminate female genital mutilations, programmes that engage local community

practitioners of female genital mutilations in community-based initiatives for the abandonment of the practice, including, where relevant, the identification by communities of alternative livelihoods for them;

18. *Calls upon* the international community, the relevant United Nations entities and civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of increased financial resources and technical assistance, targeted comprehensive programmes that address the needs and priorities of women and girls at risk of or subjected to female genital mutilations;

19. *Calls upon* the international community to strongly support, including through increased financial support, a second phase of the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, which will run until 2017, as well as national programmes focused on the elimination of female genital mutilations;

20. *Stresses* that some progress has been made in combating female genital mutilations in a number of countries using a common coordinated approach that promotes positive social change at the community, national, regional and international levels, and recalls the goal set out in the United Nations inter-agency statement[16] that female genital mutilations are to be eliminated within a generation, with some of the main achievements being obtained by 2015, in line with the Millennium Development Goals;

21. *Encourages* men and boys to take positive initiatives and to work in partnership with women and girls to combat violence and discriminatory practices against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilations, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

22. *Calls upon* States, the United Nations system, civil society and all stakeholders to continue to observe 6 February as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation and to use the day to enhance awareness-raising campaigns and to take concrete actions against female genital mutilations;

23. *Calls upon* States to improve the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data and, where appropriate, to collaborate with existing data collection systems, which are crucial for evidence-based legal and policy development, programme design and implementation and the monitoring of the elimination of female genital mutilation;

24. *Acknowledges* that intensifying efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations is needed and, in this regard, the importance of giving the issue due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, individually and collectively, take into account the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls against female genital mutilations in their country programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with national priorities, in order to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

26. *Renews its request* to the Secretary-General that he submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-first session, an in-depth multidisciplinary report on the root causes of and factors contributing to the practice of female genital mutilations,

its prevalence worldwide and its impact on women and girls, including evidence and data, analysis of progress made to date and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating this practice on the basis of information provided by Member States, relevant actors of the United Nations system working on the issue and other relevant stakeholders.

73rd plenary meeting
18 December 2014

General Assembly

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 27 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2014

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/69/481)*]

69/151. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 68/140 of 18 December 2013, and recalling also the section of resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women",

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2] are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[3] the 2005 World Summit,[4] the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[5] the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals[6] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] Resolution 55/2.

[4] Resolution 60/1.

[5] Resolution 65/1.

[6] Resolution 68/6.

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Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Noting that 2015 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to commemorate the occasion,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and taking note with appreciation of all its agreed conclusions, including the agreed conclusions on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls adopted by the Commission at its fifty-eighth session,[7] and of the need to implement them,

Welcoming also the strengthening of the capacity of UN-Women and its experience in achieving its mandate,

Taking note of the activities carried out by the Fund for Gender Equality and the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women,

Recognizing that the participation and contribution of civil society, in particular women's groups and organizations and other non-governmental organizations, are important to the successful implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, in particular in the lead-up to the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Platform for Action,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, which is relevant in all issues considered by its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, including in resolutions dealing with issues beyond social, humanitarian, cultural, economic and financial matters,

Reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Reaffirming further the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[8]

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[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 7* (E/2014/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[8] Resolution 63/239, annex.

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and girls and stereotypical roles of boys and girls, men and women, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address inequality between men and women,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[9] and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on AIDS, held on 10 June 2011,[10] in which, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women were recognized as fundamental for reducing the vulnerability of women to HIV and AIDS,

Welcoming the integration of a gender perspective into the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[11] and in this regard commending UN-Women for its efforts to ensure coherence throughout the United Nations system in its advocacy for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the context of sustainable development, and in particular in the context of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting with appreciation the attention to gender equality and the empowerment of women reflected in the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway",[12] and encouraging its appropriate follow-up and implementation,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system,[13]

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stressing the need for their participation therein, including at decision-making levels,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106 (2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security and resolution 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to and implementation of the

[9] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

[10] Resolution 65/277, annex.

[11] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[12] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[13] A/69/346.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[14]

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[1] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly[2] and the declaration adopted on the occasion of the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[15] and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[16] are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, welcomes in this regard the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto[17] and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Reiterates* the importance and value of the mandate of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and welcomes the Entity's leadership in providing a strong voice for women and girls at all levels;

7. *Reaffirms* the important role of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

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[14] A/69/182.

[15] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

[16] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[17] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

8. *Notes with appreciation* the important and extensive work of UN-Women for more effective and coherent gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system, and calls upon UN-Women to continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work and of its efforts to accelerate action across the United Nations system;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment of UN-Women to support Member States in their efforts to develop and strengthen norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as to integrate gender perspectives into sectoral policy and normative frameworks, and encourages the Entity to continue to promote the need to mainstream and strengthen a gender perspective in the work of intergovernmental bodies and processes and the opportunities therein, and to provide technical assistance, at the request of Member States, in strengthening a gender perspective in resolutions and other outcomes;

10. *Urges* Member States to increase funding for the budget of UN-Women by providing, when legislative and budgetary provisions allow, core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions, recognizing the importance of adequate funding in enabling UN-Women to implement its strategic plan promptly and effectively and that the mobilization of financial resources for achieving its goals still remains a challenge;

11. *Encourages* all actors, including Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and, as applicable, to carry out the recommendations of the Commission, welcomes in this regard the Commission's continued sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to the full implementation at the national and international levels and the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes, and encourages the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to incorporate the outcomes of the Commission into their work;

12. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs and the relevant funds and programmes and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify and accelerate action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, nearly 20 years after their adoption, and of the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

13. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys to take an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any form of violence against women, and in this regard encourages Member States to

continue to support the Secretary-General's ongoing campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the social mobilization and advocacy platform of UN-Women "Say NO — UNiTE to End Violence against Women";

14. *Reiterates its call upon* the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, through forums such as the high-level political forum on sustainable development and functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council and the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes, including those of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012;

15. *Calls upon* States to ensure that intergovernmental processes, such as the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), consistently address gender perspectives in their preparatory processes and outcomes, and also calls upon States to ensure the reflection of a gender perspective in the discussions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as they elaborate a new climate change agreement, to be adopted in 2015;

16. *Reiterates* that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

17. *Recalls* its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals[18] and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

18. *Urges* States to build on the lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals as the new post-2015 development agenda is being shaped, also urges States to tackle critical remaining challenges through a transformative and comprehensive approach, and calls for gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls to be reflected as a stand-alone goal and to be integrated through targets and indicators into all goals of any new development framework;

19. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations system to systematically incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work, within their mandates, and, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and in this regard encourages UN-Women to continue to use concrete results-based reporting mechanisms and to ensure coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of its work;

[18] A/68/970 and Corr.1.

20. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

21. *Calls upon* Governments and the United Nations system to encourage women's groups and other non-governmental organizations specializing in gender equality and the empowerment of women to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;

22. *Calls upon* the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to systematically request the inclusion of a gender perspective in reports of the Secretary-General and other inputs to intergovernmental processes;

23. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through gender-sensitive analysis and the provision of data disaggregated by sex and age and that conclusions and recommendations for further action address the different situations and needs of women and men and girls and boys in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to convey the importance of reflecting a gender perspective to all stakeholders who provide input to his reports;

24. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of, as appropriate, United Nations entities, including UN-Women, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors, to prioritize the strengthening of national data collection and monitoring capacities with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women through multisectoral efforts and partnerships;

25. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session through, inter alia, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially those in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from the developing and the least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure the implementation of measures, including temporary special measures, to accelerate progress, and managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

27. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its efforts towards achieving the goal of gender balance, including with the active support of gender focal points, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", and on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, with recommendations for accelerating progress and up-to-date statistics to be provided annually by entities of the United Nations, including on the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, as well as information on the responsibility and accountability of the offices of human resources management and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

28. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international, regional, national and local levels, including through improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes and by achieving gender balance;

29. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

30. *Encourages* its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, particularly in the light of the analysis contained in the report of the Secretary-General[13] and of the cross-cutting nature of gender equality and the empowerment of women, to make further progress in the integration of a gender perspective into their work;

31. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the United Nations system the findings of his report in order to strengthen follow-up on these findings and accelerate the implementation of the present resolution;

32. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18 of 24 July 2013, in which the Council decided that, at its fifty-ninth session, in 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women would undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda through the integration of a gender perspective;

33. *Urges* all States and all other stakeholders, in that context, to undertake comprehensive reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with a view to strengthening and accelerating their full implementation, and to consider appropriate commemorative activities for the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

34. *Encourages* States and all stakeholders to strengthen the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all sectors and in all areas of development, including through the national and regional preparations for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

35. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue to support and contribute to the review and appraisal process of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the international, regional, national and local levels, encourages UN-Women to continue its efforts in support of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the central role it is playing in mobilizing States, civil society, the United Nations system, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders at all levels, including through its activities, campaigns and special events for the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action aimed at strengthening political will and commitment, social mobilization, awareness-raising and revitalized public debates, a strengthened evidence base and knowledge generation, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure enhanced and sufficient resources to achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and the realization of women's full enjoyment of all human rights;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly under the item entitled "Advancement of women", and to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices and recommendations on further measures to enhance and accelerate implementation.

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Agenda item 61

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2014

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/69/482)*]

69/152. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office[1] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-fifth session[2] and the decisions contained therein,

Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

Expressing deep concern that the number of people who are forcibly displaced owing to conflict, persecution, violence and other reasons, including terrorism, has reached the highest level since the Second World War,

Expressing its appreciation for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner,

Commending the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner and of its partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

Underlining its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities;

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/69/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/69/12/Add.1).

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2. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-fifth session;[2]

3. *Recognizes* the relevance of the Executive Committee's practice of adopting conclusions, and encourages the Executive Committee to continue this process;

4. *Appreciates* the convening of the high-level segment on enhancing international cooperation, solidarity, local capacities and humanitarian action for refugees in Africa of the sixty-fifth plenary session of the Executive Committee, welcomes the statement adopted on 30 September 2014 by the States members of the Executive Committee,[3] commends African States for their hospitality and refugee-friendly policies in hosting large numbers of refugees over a long period of time despite their limited resources, calls upon the African States and the international community to pursue efforts as identified in the statement, and calls upon all States to act in international solidarity, burden-sharing and partnership with African States to support international protection of refugees and facilitate durable solutions;

5. *Also appreciates* the follow-up to the high-level segment of the sixty-fourth plenary session of the Executive Committee, renews its call upon all States to provide the necessary support with a view to sharing the burden of the host countries, and underscores the critical importance of development support for host communities;

6. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[4] and the 1967 Protocol thereto[5] as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that 148 States are now parties to one or both instruments, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

7. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes, in this context, the importance of active international solidarity and burden-sharing;

8. *Welcomes* recent accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[6] and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness[7] since the intergovernmental ministerial event marking the sixtieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, as well as pledges to

[3] Ibid., annex I.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[5] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[6] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

[7] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

remove reservations to them, also welcomes the recent increase in the number of accessions to the two Conventions, and notes that 84 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 63 States are parties to the 1961 Convention, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

9. *Re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, and in this regard welcomes the call by the High Commissioner for action to end statelessness within a decade;

10. *Also re-emphasizes* that protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

11. *Notes* the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

12. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue responding adequately to emergencies, in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with States, notes the measures taken by the Office to strengthen its capacity to respond to emergencies, and encourages the Office to pursue its efforts to further strengthen its emergency capacity and thereby ensure a more predictable, effective and timely response;

13. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and in full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the continued development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels, and recalls the role of the Office as the leading entity of the cluster for protection, camp coordination and management and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

14. *Further encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, among other relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution 68/102 of 13 December 2013 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

15. *Welcomes* the recent efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure a more inclusive, transparent, predictable and well-coordinated response to refugees as well as internally displaced persons and other persons of concern,

consistent with its mandate, and in this regard takes note of the articulation of the refugee coordination model;

16. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to engage in and implement in full the objectives of the "Delivering as one" initiative;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken and efficiencies gained in the process of structural and management change to reinforce the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner, and encourages the Office to focus on continuous improvement in order to enable a more efficient response to the needs of beneficiaries, including identifying unmet needs, and to ensure the effective and transparent use of its resources;

18. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing threats to the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need;

19. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not operate with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

20. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons and acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, and calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law;

21. *Deplores* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum seekers, and calls upon all States concerned to ensure respect for the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

22. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and, where appropriate, other humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

23. *Notes with concern* that asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in some situations, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary;

24. *Expresses concern* at the large number of asylum seekers who have lost their lives at sea trying to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to further strengthen search and rescue mechanisms;

25. *Emphasizes* that the international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this

context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

26. *Expresses deep concern* about the long-term impact of cuts in food rations on the health and well-being of refugees globally, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, and especially its impact on children, owing to insufficient funding and increased costs, and in this regard calls upon States to ensure sustained support for the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Food Programme, while looking to provide refugees with alternatives to food assistance, pending a durable solution;

27. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and of State policies, also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women, children and persons with disabilities in particular, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on those issues;

28. *Notes* that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, recognizes that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes efforts by States to ensure the birth registration of children;

29. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking durable solutions to refugee problems, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

30. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizes that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

31. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee problems and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements;

32. *Encourages* further efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable, timely and voluntary return, which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States and

other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

33. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to adopt a solution-oriented approach that supports the sustainability of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, including from the onset of displacement, and in this regard urges the Office to further strengthen partnerships with national Governments and development actors, as well as international financial institutions;

34. *Calls upon* States to create opportunities for resettlement as a durable solution, acknowledges with appreciation the many countries that continue to offer enhanced resettlement opportunities and other forms of humanitarian admission, recognizes the need to further increase the number of resettlement places and the number of countries with regular resettlement programmes and to improve the integration of resettled refugees, calls upon States to ensure inclusive and non-discriminatory policies in their resettlement programmes, and notes that resettlement is a strategic protection tool and solution for refugees;

35. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by States to strengthen the regional initiatives that facilitate cooperative policies and approaches on refugees, and encourages States to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the people who require international protection in their respective regions, including the support provided for host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

36. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed migratory flows in order to better address protection needs in the context of mixed migratory flows, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and also notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

37. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

38. *Expresses concern* about the challenges associated with climate change and environmental degradation to the operations of the Office of the High Commissioner and the assistance it provides to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in the least developed countries, and urges the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work, within its mandate, and in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies in its operations;

39. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, refugee populations and the communities hosting them, with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities

hosting refugees, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers, and whose generosity is appreciated;

40. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those host countries, donor States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the condition of refugees through building the resilience of refugees and their host communities, while working towards a durable solution;

41. *Expresses concern* that the needs required to protect and assist persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to increase and that the gap between global needs and available resources continues to grow, appreciates the continued and increasing hospitality of host countries and generosity of donors, and therefore calls upon the Office to continue and enhance efforts to broaden its donor base so as to achieve greater burden-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

42. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute[8] and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolution 58/153 of 22 December 2003 and subsequent resolutions on the Office of the High Commissioner concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

43. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his annual activities to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

73rd plenary meeting
18 December 2014

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[8] Resolution 428 (V), annex.

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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/69/482)*]

69/153. Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 2014/242 of 16 July 2014 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the request regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the note verbale dated 10 December 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[1] the letter dated 18 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[2] the note verbale dated 3 March 2014 from the Permanent Mission of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[3] and the letter dated 15 May 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[4]

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 94 States to 98 States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at a coordination and management meeting in 2015.

73rd plenary meeting
18 December 2014

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[1] E/2014/62.
[2] E/2014/47.
[3] E/2014/48.
[4] E/2014/79.

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